

VI. CLASSIFICATIONS

For purposes of athletic competition, four classifications are identified—AAAA, AAA, AA and A. When at least 25 percent of the total number of member schools, or at least half the schools in a classification participate in a sport sanctioned by the NCHSAA that sport shall culminate in a state championship for that classification. When less than half participate, those schools shall be grouped with schools from all other classifications not having fifty percent participation in unclassified state playoffs. If only one classification has less than fifty percent participation, the schools of that classification shall be placed in the state playoffs of the next highest classification.

Classification is to be guided but not bound by the ADM figures averaging the daily membership in grades 9, 10, 11 and 12 for the first month as submitted to the State Department of Public Instruction. ADM figures used as a general guide in determining the four classifications may be established by the Board and may be subsequently changed by a two-thirds vote of the membership at the Annual Meeting.

The initial classification and alignment plan will be effective with the 1985-86 school year for a minimum four-year period. In the second year of the alignment period, schools having special hardship conditions with regard to classification may appeal to the Board of Directors for relief. Final action on appeals would take place at the winter meeting of the Board of Directors following completion of the normal two-year football contract period.

Using ADM and other factors which may apply, the Board of Directors is given the authority to transfer schools to another classification. If by a two-thirds vote the annual meeting shall instruct the Board of Directors to reverse any transfer decision, that vote of the annual meeting shall at once supersede the former decision of the Board of Directors.

VII. AMENDMENTS

Proposed amendments to the Articles of Incorporation or these Bylaws shall be submitted to the Commissioner's office no later than the November 1 prior to the annual meeting. In order to be considered, the proposed change must have been submitted and endorsed by the superintendents or principals of at least six member schools or systems with member schools.

If the proposed change is properly submitted to the Commissioner, the Commissioner shall distribute a copy of the proposed change with explanations as appropriate and a ballot to each member school, and the Commissioner shall set a reasonable deadline for the return of the ballots prior to the annual meeting.

An affirmative vote of not less than three-fourths of the total ballot distributed shall be necessary for a change in the Articles of Incorporation or Bylaws. The Commissioner shall report the results of the vote at the annual meeting, and shall cause such additional documents to be prepared as to formally notice the amendment or amendments.

1. The Board of Directors may update the Registered Agent in the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws should the Registered Agent or managing business agent's position, often the Commissioner, become incapacitated or leave office. (Approved December 2017, 335-2)

VIII. PENALTIES

The Board of Directors, upon the relation of the Commissioner or any of the members of the Association, shall have the duty and final authority to authorize the investigation of and to punish member schools or their representatives for any violations of the rules and regulations of the Association. The Board shall take care that due notice of alleged violations and an opportunity to appear and respond to the allegations is afforded each member or representative of a member accused of violations of Association rules or regulations prior to its determination upon the allegations.

1. *Process.* Any inquiry about, or report concerning a suspected violation of, the Articles of Incorporation, the Bylaws or Rules and Regulations of the Association shall be first directed to the Commissioner or in his or her absence, his or her designee (which could include the Deputy Commissioner, Associate Commissioner or Assistant Commissioner). The Commissioner, or his or her designee, shall first provide his or her ruling on any issue raised orally and, as soon as is reasonably possible thereafter, this ruling, and the basis for the decision, shall be reduced to writing and immediately provided to the interested parties. Any member of the Association who is adversely affected by this decision may first appeal to the Executive Committee, in writing (which may be faxed or emailed) within 2 working days of notification of the decision, and thereafter, to the Board of Directors of the Association by written notice (which may be faxed or emailed) within 24 hours of the Executive Committee's announced decision. Decisions of the Board of Directors shall be final and binding.

2. *Ineligible Players.* Any school using an ineligible player in any contest sanctioned by the Association may be barred from taking part in the contests involving the same sport of the Association for up to one year. The Board of Directors shall prescribe the manner for protesting ineligible players and its decision in